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For more information about Atlantic sharks,  
please contact:

[www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html](http://www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html)

or

Margo Schulze-Haugen      Buck Sutter  
Karyl Brewster-Geisz      St. Petersburg, FL  
Silver Spring, MD      (727) 570-5447  
(301) 713-2347

If your marina or fishing club would like to  
receive regular shark postings from our HMS  
FAX network, please contact Sarah McLaughlin  
at (978) 281-9260.

**Important Phone Numbers:**

NMFS Enforcement Hotline 800-853-1964  
Coast Guard Hotline 800-SAVE-FISH  
NMFS Southeast Office 727-570-5301  
NMFS Northeast Infoline 978-281-9278  
HMS Infoline 800-894-5528  
NMFS tuna information 888-USA-TUNA  
978-281-9305  
Atlantic tunas permits 888-872-8862

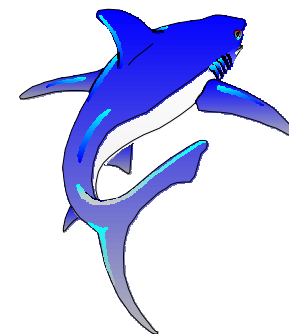
[www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com)

*This pamphlet was prepared in May 2000 to  
provide interested fishermen a summary  
only of recreational angler regulations  
resulting from the HMS Fishery  
Management Plan. Regulations may be  
found at [www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html](http://www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html).  
Since fishery rules are subject to change,  
fishermen must familiarize themselves with  
the latest regulations and are responsible  
for complying with current official  
regulations.*

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## Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



MAY 2000

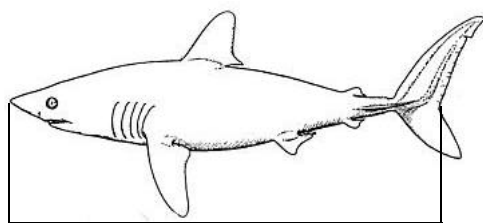
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Highly Migratory Species Management  
Division



## Bag Limit and Minimum Size

ONE shark (any species that may be kept) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54" or 4.5 feet fork length; plus

ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size).



Fork length

## Authorized Gears

Rod and reel, handline, bandit gear.

## No Sale Provision

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a commercial shark permit) are not permitted to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

## Landing Restrictions

Harvested sharks must have fins, head, and tail attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted if the tail is still attached. This regulation will aid species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside.

## Release Information

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it.

## Species That May Be Kept

### Large Coastal Sharks

Sandbar	Lemon
Blacktip	Bull
Spinner	Great hammerhead
Tiger	Smooth hammerhead
Silky	Scalloped hammerhead
Nurse	

### Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic sharpnose	Blacknose
Finetooth	Bonnethead

### Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako	Oceanic whitetip
Common thresher	Blue
Porbeagle	

## Species That MUST Be Released\*

White	Narrowtooth
Dusky	Caribbean sharpnose
Sand tiger	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Atlantic angel
Whale	Longfin mako
Basking	Bigeye thresher
Bignose	Sevengill
Galapagos	Sixgill
Night	Bigeye sixgill
Caribbean reef	

\*Sharks must be released immediately with a minimum of injury without removing it from the water.

## Tagging Information

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, write:

Apex Predators Program

NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service

28 Tarzwell Drive

Narragansett, RI 02882-1199

or visit [www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov](http://www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov)

## Tournament Registration

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic highly migratory species, which includes sharks, must register the tournament with NMFS at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call (228) 769-8964 or visit the website [www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html](http://www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hmspg.html) to receive a registration form.

NMFS will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NMFS will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NMFS within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

## To Be Implemented At A Later Date:

### Permits and Logbooks for

**Charter/Headboats** - Permits for charterboats and headboats targeting HMS species, including Atlantic sharks, will be required. You will be contacted in the near future regarding the time frame for the implementation of the new permit. NMFS will select a percentage of permitted charter/headboats to complete a logbook for each trip.

### Voluntary Observer Program for

**Charter/Headboats** - The voluntary observer program will be used by NMFS to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish more effectively. The voluntary program will begin following implementation

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of the charter/headboat permit.